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THE WHITE HOUSE

~~TOP SECRET~~

WASHINGTON

January 7, 1980

Presidential Directive/NSC -55

TO: The Secretary of State
 The Secretary of Defense
 The Attorney General
 Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff
 The Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT: Intelligence Special Access Programs:
 Establishment of the APEX Program (TS)

The President has approved establishment of the APEX program, a single special access system to protect particularly sensitive intelligence sources and methods. APEX conforms with Executive Order 12065 and will be implemented for the National Security Council by the Director of Central Intelligence as the Council's Executive Agent. The National Security Council will be the forum for any appeals arising during implementation of the APEX program. (TS)

The APEX program will control the nature, attributable collected information, and operational details of the most sensitive intelligence sources and methods, as determined by the Director of Central Intelligence. Uniform security standards established by the Director of Central Intelligence will govern access to, distribution of, and protection of intelligence sources and methods, subject to any specific statutory requirements applicable to any department or agency. (TS)

This memorandum supercedes the Presidential memorandum of August 26, 1960 and provides the authority to terminate the TALENT-KEYHOLE security control system. (TS)



Zbigniew Brzezinski

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Review January 7, 2000

Classified and Extended by Zbigniew Brzezinski

Reason: NSC 1.13(b)